



Beaver County Emergency Services

Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 6, Issue 3

OPERATION TOTAL DARKNESS

By Kevin Joy

On May 18th, 23rd and 25th, Beaver County Emergency Services assisted Friendship Ridge, a county operated nursing home, with a major power changeover. This facility had 517 residents at the time of the changeover. The three phase power upgrade was given the event title of "Operation Total Darkness". Several months of planning resulted in a seamless switch of electrical power in the facility. Although it went very well, it was not until the early morning hours of May 26th when everyone breathed a sigh of relief after full power had been restored.

The county's Emergency Management team was tasked with three major functions. One was to provide auxiliary light in the facility. This was accomplished through the use of several generators for lighting on the lower levels with battery operated lights on the upper floors. A majority of this equipment came from the Region 13 counties.

Our second task was to provide communications. Since the phone system would not work during the outage, portable radios were distributed to each nursing station as well as to other key members of the Friendship Ridge staff. Communications were coordinated through Beaver County's Mobile Command Unit, which was stationed at the facility for a week.

Lastly, we were tasked with assisting with patient movement. The five floor facility had no elevator service for 16 hours at the longest point. Patients had to be moved throughout the facility using a variety of mobility devices. The manpower assistance that EMSI brought to our operation during these moves was greatly appreciated.

Some other activities that were utilized during this event were a quick system to identify resident mobility. Each resident was issued a color coded wrist band. At a glance you could determine if the person was ambulatory, needed a wheel chair or would need a stretcher in order to be moved. The Knowledge Center was used to track all activities, and the state's FRED system was used to monitor bed availability at other facilities. Additionally, EMSI's PATrak (Patient Tracking System) was available in the event an evacuation was called for. EMSI also supported a functional exercise that ran parallel to this event. Please see Eric Brewer's EMS Update on page 6 for more information about Operation Fire Watch.

Thanks to advanced planning and exceptional multi-agency teamwork, this power changeover event took place without incident and provided a valuable training opportunity for EMS and EMA personnel.

SUMMER, 2011

- *Operation Total Darkness*
- *Director's Corner*
- *Radiological Emergency Response Training for FDs*
- *Bullying Exercise*
- *Hazard Mitigation*
- *Hazmat Recert*
- *Municipal Coordinator Updates*
- *EMS & Fire Services Updates*
- *News & Notes*
- *Events Calendar*

Please see page two for photographs from Operation Total Darkness and Operation Fire Watch.

OPERATIONS TOTAL DARKNESS AND FIRE WATCH



Director Wesley Hill checks in with 9-1-1 Dispatchers Kevin Whipple and Jane Blanarik in Beaver County's Mobile Command Unit, which was on scene to support communications during the change over at Friendship Ridge.

Beaver County Emergency Services Staff put in long hours during the three day event, ensuring patient safety and overseeing equipment deployment.

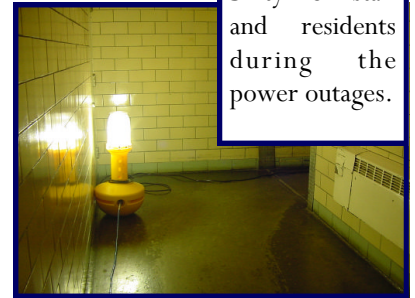
Mobile light towers, like this one from Allegheny County, as well as smaller portable light sources, were collected from many Region 13 counties in support of this event.



Portable lights, part of a regional cache, were placed in hallways to maintain visibility for staff and residents during the power outages.



The Region 4 EMS Operations Mobile Command Unit provided support for the event.



The "tent city" that was created as part of Operation Fire Watch was set up to exercise EMS response but also as a standby hospital and shelter in support of the Friendship Ridge power changeover.



Support for this event included ambulance companies from across the region.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Wesley Hill, Emergency Services Director

Finally, it's the time of year that we've been waiting for: warm weather, vacations, and all of summer's fun is here. So far this season, Beaver County has been quite fortunate in as far as missing major severe weather events. Locations all around us have been hit by severe storms and tornadoes.

During the summer months, we need to be aware of the potential for fast developing storms. Make sure you have a means to be notified of storm warnings and also talk with your family and co-workers about a severe weather plan. At recent meetings, Deputy Director Kevin Joy has been reminding our partner agencies about the utility of weather radios for receiving storm warnings. If you don't already have radios at your home and business,

please consider purchasing them. Another great way to receive advance weather warnings is through Alert PA at <https://alert.pa.gov>. Alert PA offers email and text message notifications for a variety of subjects from product recalls to flight delays and missing children announcements. I encourage you to register to receive weather warnings from this site.

Also of seasonal concern are brush fires. Whether doing yard work, camping, or enjoying a recreational bonfire, everyone needs to take precautions when burning outdoors. When planning these types of activities, always check with your municipality and your local fire department regarding burning bans and ordinances that may be in place in your commu-

nity.

As you can tell from what's being reported in this issue, we have been busy at Beaver County Emergency Services during the second quarter of this year. From planning and training to operational exercises, we continue to enhance our capabilities and work with the resources throughout the region.

In closing, our county's emergency services have a busy summer planned. There are numerous activities going on in and around the county that should provide fun for everyone. I hope that each of you has a chance to support your responders and has a safe and enjoyable summer!

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS

By Jessica Davis

We here at Beaver County Emergency Services (BCES) have begun an initiative to expand our Radiological Emergency Preparedness plan to include first responders outside of the traditional 10 mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) surrounding the Beaver Valley Power Station.

As recent events in Japan have demonstrated, in the event of a nuclear emergency, large numbers of emergency personnel will be needed to respond to the situation to supplement the Departments within the affected areas.

The primary role of Fire Departments in the Radiological Emergency Plan is to perform route alerting and radiation monitoring and decontamination duties. BCES has designed a 2-3 hour program to train Fire Department personnel to perform these duties. The class will be a mixture of lecture and hands-on demonstration/exercises hosted at 5 Fire Departments in the County over the next few months.

We have already conducted 1 training and had an outstanding turn out. We had 55 members from various departments including North Sewickley, Koppel, Franklin, White, West Mayfield, and Homewood. Thank you again to North Sewickley VFD for being our host for the first training session.

Trainings are being announced by email, and the following dates have been scheduled:

Departments: Economy VFD, Freedom VFD, Harmony VFD, Conway VFD

When: Monday, June 13, 2011, 6:30-9:30pm

Where: Economy VFD Social Hall, 3308 Conway-Wallrose Rd. Baden, PA 15005

Departments: Daughtery Twp VFD, Pine Run VFD, Big Knob VFD, New Brighton VFD, Pulaski VFD

When: Thursday, June 16, 2011, 6:30-9:30pm

Where: Daugherty Twp Fire Department, 4198 Marion Hill Rd. New Brighton, PA

Departments: Big Beaver VFD, New Galilee VFD, Darlington VFD, Homewood VFD

When: Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 6:30-9:30pm

Where: Big Beaver Volunteer Fire Department, 621 Friendship Rd. Darlington, PA 16115

Departments: Rochester Twp VFD, Rochester Borough VFD, East Rochester VFD

When: Tuesday, July 26, 2011, 6:30-9:30pm

Where: Rochester Twp Fireman's Club, 620 Connecticut Ave. Rochester Twp, PA

SCHOOL EXERCISE TARGETS BULLYING

By Victor Spinelli

What is bullying? Is it happening in our local schools? If you have turned on the news recently, you have probably seen that bullying is occurring all over the United States. According to the American Psychological Association, 40-80% of school age children experience bullying at some point during their school careers.

On May 16, a table-top exercise concerning bullying and school violence was held at Midland Elementary /Middle School. The

exercise was attended by local and county law enforcement officials as well as the school superintendent, teachers and administrators, and representatives from the National Network of Digital Schools. The discussion included review of the school's emergency Operations Plan as well as a review of the school's anti-bullying policy.

At the hot wash following the exercise, participants commented that discussions prompted by these types of exercises that bring school

staff and local responders together make for better interactions between agencies during actual emergencies.

Schools are currently letting out for the summer. However, looking toward fall, administrators interested in hosting a tabletop exercise at their school are encouraged to contact Victor Spinelli at Beaver County Emergency Services at 724-775-1700 or by email at vspinelli@beavercountypa.gov.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE PROJECT

By David Linkimer

The term "Hazard Mitigation" describes actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards, or disasters, such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, landslides, tornadoes, earthquakes, dam failures, or terrorism. As the costs of disasters continue to rise, governments and citizens must find ways to reduce hazard risks to our communities. Efforts made to reduce hazard risks should be compatible with other community goals; safer communities are more attractive to employers as well as residents. As communities plan for new development and improvements to existing infrastructure, mitigation can and should be an important component of the planning effort.

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team held the Final Public Meeting of the 2011 plan update project on May 10th at the Emergency Services Center in Ambridge. The Plan was presented for public review and will be posted on the project website www.beaverhmp.com for further review and comment.

After a 30 day public comment period, it will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval. Following approval from FEMA, the plan will need to be officially adopted by the elected bodies of each municipality.

We are very happy to report that all Beaver County Municipalities participated in the update process and will be included in the comprehensive county plan, making them eligible for Federal Mitigation funding for the next 5 years.

Special thanks are due to the representatives from each municipality, the Beaver County Planning Commission, the Beaver County Conservation District, and Michael Baker Jr. Inc. for their participation in this important project.

HAZMAT TEAM 700 RECERTIFICATION

By Victor Spinelli

It is time again for Beaver County's Hazardous Materials Response Team 700 to be recertified. PEMA Directive Number D2004-01 is the driving force behind the hazmat recertification process. The purpose of this directive is to provide a common reference and guidance source for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to coordinate, evaluate and prepare recommendations for state certification of hazmat teams.

PEMA has prepared this document as mandated under Pennsylvania's Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning and Response Act, Act 1990-165. Act 165 directs the Commonwealth and its counties to set standards for all Hazardous Materials Response Teams (HMRT). The directive covers training and certification, standardizes the equipping of HMRT units and addresses other matters involving hazmat response activities.

Hazmat Teams are required to be recertified every 4 years. This spring, Beaver County applied for its 5th team recertification and is awaiting an assessment date. Once scheduled, PEMA will complete an on-site assessment including review of Team 700's management, operations, training, and equipment. The Team has prepared for recertification by maintaining accurate and up to date Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), member rosters, medical, incident response and training records, as well as ensuring that response equipment and reference materials are kept current. The recertification process helps to keep the team sharp and in tune with the latest hazardous materials response regulations.

MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR UPDATES

By Jessica Davis

EMA Coordinator Certification

The Emergency Management Coordinator Certification Program that had been suspended has been rescinded. Coordinators are encouraged to continue to work towards their Basic, Advanced & Professional Certifications. We are here to help you with any and all of your certification requirements. One local Coordinator has completed the basic certification recently in 2011, and her packet has been submitted to PEMA. That coordinator is Jessica Davis of North Sewickley Twp.



At our last EMAC Quarterly Training, Direct Wesley Hill presented 2 Coordinators with their Basic Certification plaques. They were: Chuck Ward of Industry Borough, above left, and Dave Linkimer of Beaver Borough, above right.

2011 Municipal Coordinator Training

Speaking of training, mark your calendars for the upcoming 2011 EMAC Quarterly Training sessions. In order to make this

training available to everyone, we are offering 2 sessions each quarter; you only need to attend one per quarter.

Third Quarter

When: Wednesday Aug. 10 (1-3pm or 7-9pm)

Where: Beaver County ESC

Topic: Work Environment of the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

Fourth Quarter

When: Tuesday Nov. 15th (1-3pm or 7-9pm)

Where: Beaver County ESC

Topic: Municipal Coordinator Tabletop Exercise

Emergency Operations Plans

All Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators are reminded that Emergency Operations Plans must be reviewed and updated every two years. The County has begun an initiative to assist you with updating your plans using the new NIMS/ICS template by the end of 2011. Please contact our office for details and assistance.

We look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you.

For more information and assistance, please contact Dave Linkimer or Jessica Davis at dlinkimer@beavercountypa.gov, jdavis@beavercountypa.gov, or 724-775-1700.

EMS UPDATES



By Eric Brewer
EMS Coordinator
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724-728-3934 X 2503

lected by a Pennsylvania Regional EMS Council. If you are doing the protocol update using the LMS, there are 2 classes available: 005621 BLS Protocol Update 2011 and 005622 ALS Protocol 2011.

Protocols

The 2011 Statewide EMS Protocols may be used by EMS Providers once services receive education regarding them. However, all providers must be educated on and employing these updated ALS and BLS protocols by July 1, 2011. All protocol update programs must be registered and presented by an instructor se-

EMS Email List

If you would like to be added to the EMS email distribution list, please send me an email requesting to be added. I send out upcoming continuing education and EMS events through this list.

Landing Zones

We are continually updating the pre-designated landing zones in our CAD system, if you come across a problem with a landing zone or one that is unsafe, please let me know so that it can be deleted from the system. Also, if you need to change an LZ or add a new one, let me know the coordinates so that we may update our CAD system.

Upcoming Dates

<u>Beaver County EMS Meeting</u>	June 7 th	Beaver County Emergency Services
<u>Region 13 Health & Medical Meeting</u>	June 24 th	Washington County EOC
<u>Medical Rescue Day (Con-ed)</u>	June 25 th	Chippewa Fire Dept.
<u>Beaver County EMS Meeting</u>	October 11	Beaver County Emergency Services

Operation Fire Watch

In conjunction with the Friendship Ridge Power Changeover, there were several EMS agencies that participated in a functional exercise. The Emergency Medical Service Institute (EMSI) coordinated the exercise titled "Operation Fire Watch". The exercise was a three day event which included EMS workers sleeping overnight in the shelters that created the "tent city". In the event that there was a problem at Friendship Ridge and the facility had to be evacuated, equipment was in a readiness state to respond and assist Beaver County EMA. The exercise operation was located in the rear parking lot of the Heritage Valley Beaver campus for easy access if needed to muster for an emergency or planned evacuation. During these 3 days, the parking lot of Heritage Valley Beaver became "tent city". The Pa Region 4 EMS Strike team was activated for the exercise, which brought along a lot of resources including several ambulances, a medical surge equipment cache (MSEC), a Portable Hospital System (PHS), and casualty collection points (CCP).

Several objectives were tested during the exercise: interoperable communications, activating SERVPA, testing the capabilities of manpower and equipment, utilizing the Incident Command System, and tracking patients and medical evacuation. Included in the exercise was continuing education to all who participated by Dr Tom Stein, the Medical Director for Region 4 EMS Strike Team as well as Allegheny General Hospital. PaDOH Deputy Secretary Martin Raniowski and State EMS Director Joe Schmider also attended. Their cooperation and support of the EMS Strike Team's participation was greatly appreciated by Beaver County. One of the most valuable outcomes was the relationship that EMS and EMA built through this event. The partnership that was created with EMSI under Director Tom McElree's lead during the planning and operations phase of the exercise and the resources that EMS brought forward to assist during the exercise were both invaluable.

Radio Towers

Work on the radio towers is progressing. Beaver County Department of Public Works is in the process of pouring concrete for the emergency generators at each site. Equipment is also being delivered.

The bids have been opened for construction at Hanover. Once the bid is awarded, construction should start fairly quickly as the tower company has informed us that the structure is built and awaiting delivery to our site.

The repeater base that was temporarily installed at Baden has been moved to Friendship Ridge in Brighton Township for testing purposes. It is still Channel 11, which is the IT repeater. Again, please feel free to do testing on that channel.

Frequency Licensing

Regarding frequencies, most of the letters of concurrence have been received, and all of the paperwork is in the hands of the FCC for review. It appears that most have passed review and that licenses are in the process of being issued. Once all of the new input frequencies have been granted, installation can begin. Minor changes had to be made due to not receiving a letter of concurrence from one Fire Department, and we had to drop one police channel from the Hanover Tower. However, these adjustments should have minimal impact on our new system. The only difference will be that the Fire Dispatch channel will not be repeated, so we will need to keep chatter on that channel to a minimum and move to an operations channel as soon as possible during an incident.

Radio Channel Reminders:

- Channel 3 South Beaver repeater is out of service; however the dispatch base is in service.
- Channel 4 Midland repeater is in service.
- Channel 5 Beaver Falls repeater is in service.
- Channel 7 North Sewickley repeater is in service.
- Channel 8 Harmony repeater is in service.
- Channel 10 Hookstown repeater is in service.
- Channel 11 Independence repeater is at Friendship Ridge in Brighton Township for testing.
- Channel 12 TAC-A is for use when landing helicopters.
- Channels 2, 6, 9, 13, and 14 are non repeated and all in service.

FIRE SERVICES UPDATES

By David Trzcianka
Fire Services Coordinator

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NEWS & NOTES

- Congratulations to Chad Keller and Bryan Mazzetti who finished the dispatch trainee program and were promoted to **Part Time Telecommunicators** in April. Emergency Services is now operating with a full complement of employees as every dispatch and administrative position is currently filled.
- Dave Linkimer, Jim McCarthy, Bill Mahan, Skip Mattern, and Gene Miketa won the **Emergency Services' Biggest Loser competition**, which ended on March 31st. Skip took the individual first prize for the largest percentage of weight lost, and Victor Spinelli received an honorable mention for most pounds lost. Participants lost a grand total of 267.2 pounds over the three month period and are committed to keeping it off with the idea to donate a dollar to charity in December for every pound gained back.
- Victor Spinelli conducts **Mask Fit Testing** and issues **County ID Badges** every Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm. Appointments are required for both services. Please call Vic at 724-775-1700 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

JUNE 2011

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- **1st:** Hazmat Team Training, Garage, 6:30 pm
- **8th:** Fire Association Meeting, 7 pm
- **9th:** BVARA Meeting, 5 pm
- **11th:** Beaver Valley FOP Lodge #4 Picnic, Green Valley Park, North Sewickley, 2 - 6 pm
- **13th:** Radiological Emergency Response for Fire Departments Training, Economy VFD Social Hall, 6:30 pm
- **14th:** Flag Day, County Offices Closed
- **15th:** Chiefs of Police Meeting, 2 Mile Run Park, Noon
- **16th:** Radiological Emergency Response for Fire Departments Training, Daugherty Twp FD, 6:30 pm
- **19th:** Father's Day
- **21st:** Support & Tri County Mtgs with BVPS, 10 am & 1 pm
- **22nd:** Radiological Emergency Response for Fire Departments Training, Big Beaver VFD, 6:30 pm
- **23rd:** Hazmat Refresher Training for Law Enforcement, 1 pm

JULY 2011

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Enjoy your summer!

- **4th:** Independence Day, County Offices Closed
- **14th:** BVARA Meeting, 5 pm
- **26th:** Radiological Emergency Response for Fire Departments Training, Rochester Twp Fireman's Club, 6:30 pm
- **28th:** Beaver Valley FOP Lodge #4 Mtg, Rochester Post, 7 pm

AUGUST 2011

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- **4th:** BVPS Offsite Agency Training, BVPS, 9 am
- **9th:** BC VOAD Meeting, 1 pm
- **9th:** BC LEPC Meeting, 2:30 pm
- **10th:** Municipal EMA Coordinator Training, 1 pm or 7 pm
- **13th:** Municipal EMA Coordinator Training, 8 am
- **24th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7:30 pm

ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

For more information on any of the above listed events, or to add your public safety event to future calendars, please email Sky at: smu@beavercountypa.gov



EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Want to contribute?
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The Beaver County Emergency Services Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services
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